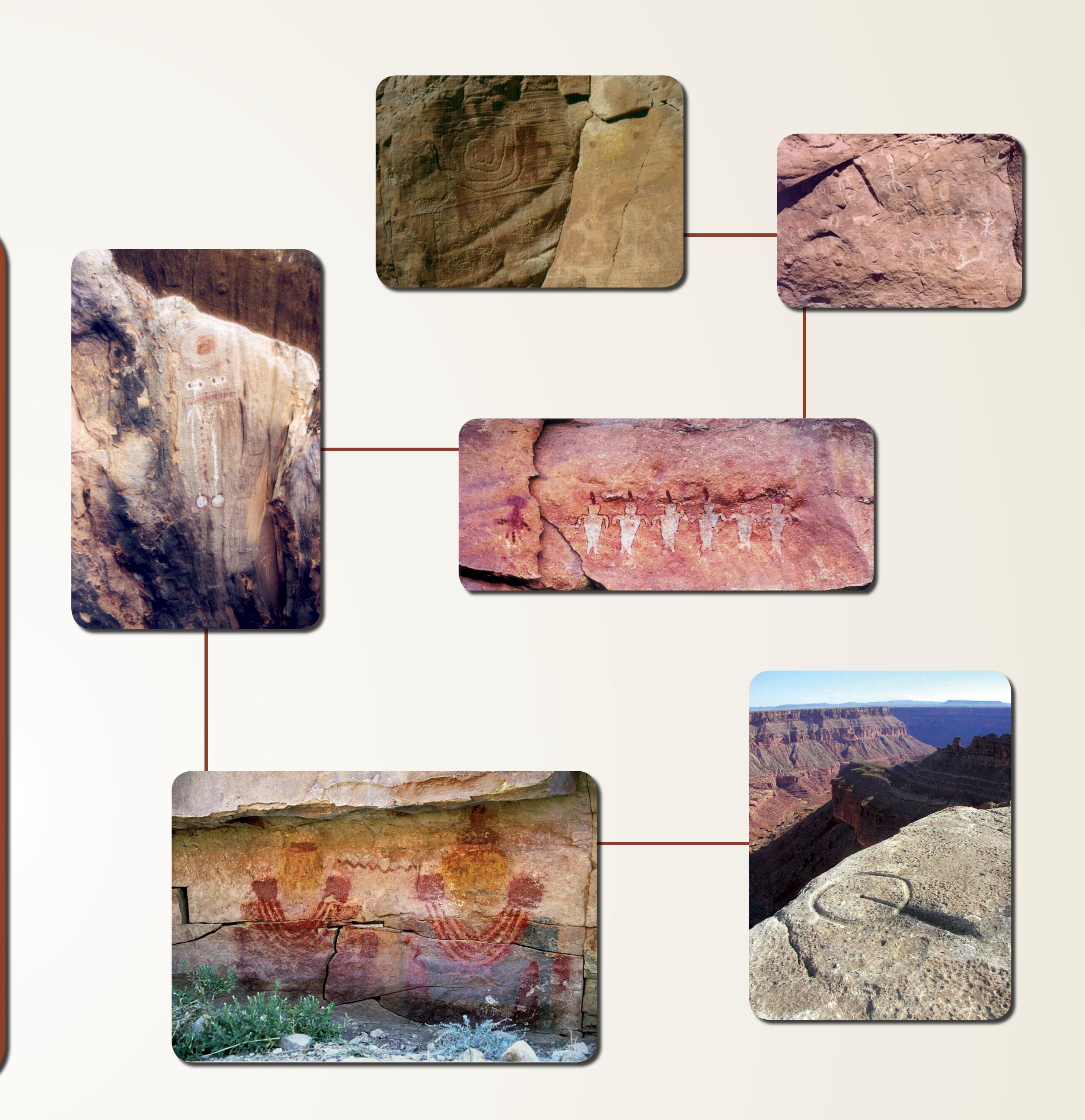
ROCK ART OF THE NORTH KAIBAB RANGER DISTRICT

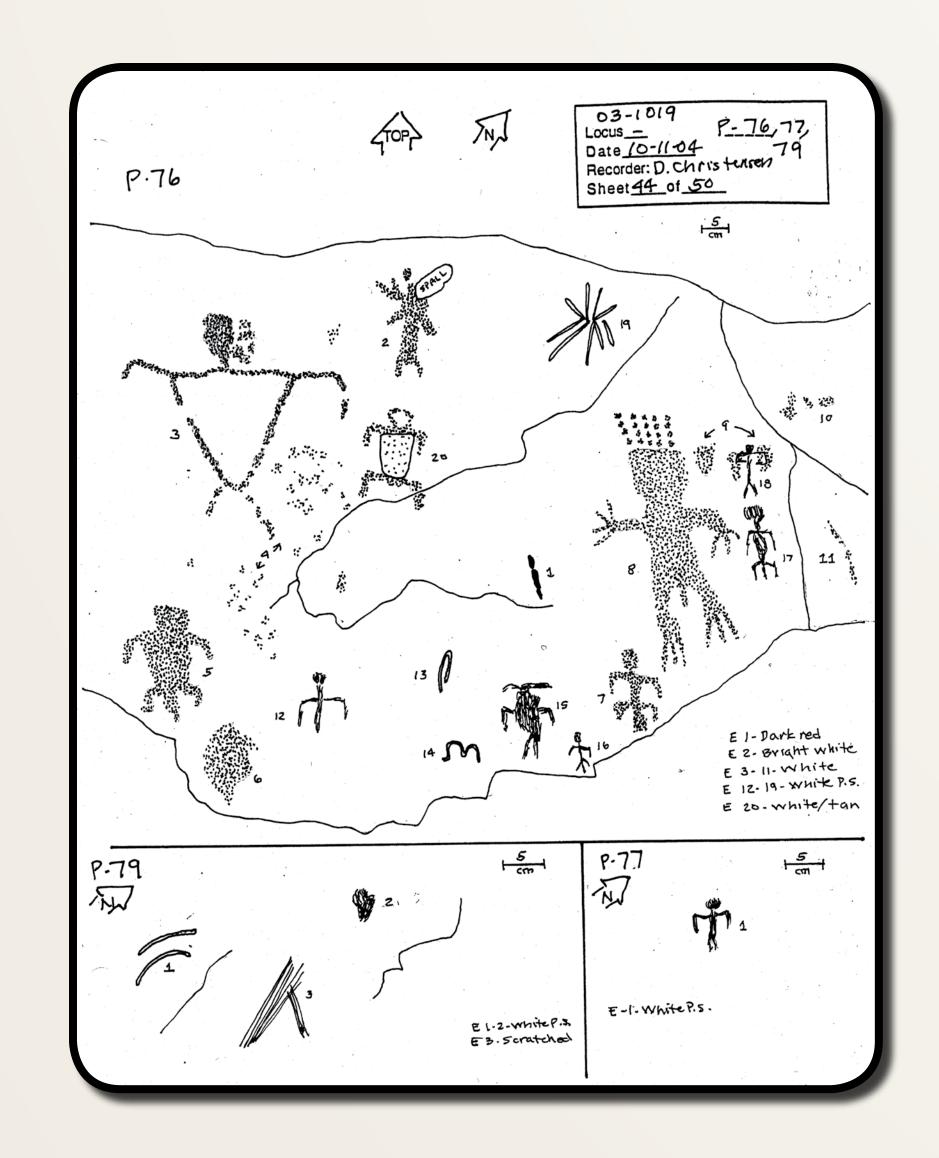
WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

WHY DID ANCIENT ARTISTS TAKE THE TIME TO CREATE ROCK ART? OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT PAINTINGS CENTERED ON RELIGIOUS THEMES AND ACTIVITIES OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE PEOPLE WHO MADE THEM (SUCH AS HUNTING OR CELEBRATIONS). DID THESE FIGURES REPRESENT SPIRITUAL BEINGS OR GUARDIANS OR ARE THEY IMAGES OF THE ARTISTS THEMSELVES? WERE THEY LEGENDARY, ANCESTRAL, OR MYTHICAL FIGURES? DID THE IMAGES CONVEY SPECIAL POWERS TO THE MAKER?

THROUGH TIME, THE TRANSITION FROM ONE CULTURE TO ANOTHER BROUGHT ABOUT CHANGES IN LIFESTYLE AND WORLD VIEW. ROCK ART SERVES AS A MEMORY DEVICE AMONG CULTURES THAT HAVE TRADITIONALLY MAINTAINED THEIR HISTORIES WITH ORAL COMMUNICATION. SOME TRIBES USED ROCK ART TO DOCUMENT BELIEFS, MIGRATIONS, CELESTIAL EVENTS, SPECIAL PLACES ON THE LANDSCAPE AND HISTORIC OCCURRENCES. WHILE WE MAY NEVER COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THESE IMAGES, WE CAN ENJOY THESE MYSTERIOUS GLIMPSES INTO THE PAST.



WHY DO ARCHAEOLOGISTS DOCUMENT ROCK ART?



ROCK ART LOCATED IN AN OPEN ENVIRONMENT SUCH AS A CLIFF FACE OR BOULDER WILL DISAPPEAR OVER TIME. SOME ROCKS EXCRETE MINERALS AND SALTS THAT CAN DETERIORATE AN IMAGE OR LICHEN AND MOSS CAN GROW OVER AND HIDE AN IMAGE. PIGMENTS WILL EVENTUALLY FADE AND ROCK SURFACES CAN SPALL, REMOVING PORTIONS OF, OR ENTIRE IMAGES FROM THE ROCK FACE.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS CAREFULLY DOCUMENT ROCK ART TO CREATE A PERMANENT RECORD. RECORDING ROCK ART INCLUDES PHOTOGRAPHING AND CAREFULLY MEASURING, DRAWING AND DESCRIBING AN IMAGE. PHOTOGRAPHS MAY NOT REVEAL SUBTLE DETAILS OF THE IMAGES, SO OBSERVATIONS MADE BY THE ARCHAEOLOGIST ARE IMPORTANT. THE RECORD ALLOWS ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO TRACK CHANGING CONDITIONS OF THE PANEL THROUGH TIME.

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST

ROCK ART IMAGES ARE FRAGILE AND IRREPLACEABLE SYMBOLS OF ANCIENT CULTURES, REPRESENTING THE HERITAGE OF AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLES OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY. PLEASE TREAT THEM WITH THE SAME RESPECT YOU WOULD PAINTINGS IN A MUSEUM. HELP US PRESERVE THESE NATIONAL TREASURES BY FOLLOWING SOME SIMPLE GUIDELINES.

- 1. ROCK ART REPRESENTS "WRITTEN" MESSAGES OF ANCIENT PEOPLES. PLEASE DO NOT DAMAGE OR DESTROY THESE IMAGES BY WRITING OR DRAWING ON THESE PANELS. TO DO SO IS VANDALISM.
- 2. OIL FROM HANDS CAN CAUSE ROCK ART TO DETERIORATE. BE CAREFUL NOT TO TOUCH THE PAINTINGS.
- 3. ARTIFACTS PROVIDE ARCHAEOLOGISTS WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE LIFE WAYS OF PAST CULTURES. LEAVE ALL ARTIFACTS WHERE THEY ARE FOUND. WHEN ARTIFACTS ARE MOVED FROM THEIR ORIGINAL LOCATION OR STOLEN, THE STORY OF THE PAST IS JUMBLED.
- 4. FIRE CAN DAMAGE OR DESTROY ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND CAN COVER ROCK ART WITH SOOT. DO NOT BUILD FIRES NEAR ROCK ART PANELS OR IN LOCATIONS WHERE YOU SEE ARTIFACTS OR RUINS.



